

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIMS WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Original) A process for manufacturing hypo-allergenic fruit and/or vegetable derivatives comprising the steps of:
 - a) separating the serum of fruits and/or vegetables from the pulp;
 - b) ultrafiltrating the serum, in order to obtain a permeate and a retentate;
 - c) washing the pulp;
 - d) adding the permeate to the pulp.
2. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein said step a) is preceded by a passage a₀) where a fruit and/or vegetable sieved is obtained by means of crushing, grinding, optionally destoning, thermal treatment and sieving of fruits and/or vegetables.
3. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein said step a) is accomplished by means of centrifugation of the fruit and/or vegetable sieved.
4. (Original) The process according to claim 3 wherein said sieved product has a solid percentage ranging between 1 and 20%.
5. (Original) The process according to claim 4 wherein said sieved product has a solid percentage ranging between 3 and 9%.
6. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 5~~, wherein said centrifugation, step a), is carried out by a horizontal axis centrifuge of the decanter type.

7. (Original) The process according to claim 6, wherein said centrifugation (step a) is carried out at a speed ranging between 500 and 12.000 rev/min, preferably between 1000 and 5000 rev/min.
8. (Original) The process according to claim 6, wherein said centrifugation (step a) is carried out continuously.
9. (Original) The process according to claim 6, wherein said centrifugation (step (a)) is carried out at a temperature ranging between 5 and 90°C, preferably between 18 and 70°C.
10. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 9~~, wherein in step a) the amount of pulp obtained ranges between 3 and 90%, preferably between 5 and 80%, and the amount of serum ranges between 97 and 10%, preferably between 95 and 20%.
11. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 10~~, wherein said ultrafiltration stage, step b), is a ultrafiltration with membranes having a cut-off ranging between 3 and 30 kDa.
12. (Original) The process according to claim 11, wherein said membranes have a cut-off ranging between 5 and 15 kDa.
13. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 12~~, wherein from the ultrafiltration, step b), 5-90% retentate, preferably 10-80%, and 95-10% permeate, preferably 90-20% are obtained.

14. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 13~~, wherein the permeate obtained following ultrafiltration of the serum (step b)) is concentrated by means of reverse osmosis.
15. (Original) The process according to claim 14, wherein said reverse osmosis is carried out with membranes having a sodium chloride retention ranging between 99,9 and 50%.
16. (Original) The process according to claim 15, wherein said membranes for reverse osmosis have a sodium chloride retention ranging between 80 e 60%.
17. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 14 ~~to 16~~, wherein said retentate that is obtained by means of reverse osmosis has a solid concentration ranging between 5 and 38%, preferably 10 and 20%.
18. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 17~~, wherein said washing of said pulp (step c) is carried out using an acidic solution to obtain the acidified pulp.
19. (Original) The process according to claim 18, wherein said acidic solution is 0, 1-5% citric acid solution, preferably about 1%.
20. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 19~~, wherein said washing stage (step c) comprises a centrifugation step of said acidified pulp to obtain the washed pulp.

21. (Original) The process according to claim 20, wherein said centrifugation (step c) is carried out at a speed ranging between 500 and 12.000 rev/min, preferably between 1000 and 5000 rev/min.
22. (Original) The process according to claim 20, wherein said centrifugation (step c) is carried out continuously.
23. (Original) The process according to claim 20, wherein said centrifugation (step c) is carried out at a temperature ranging between 5 and 90°C, preferably between 18 and 70°C.
24. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 23~~, wherein said washing step is repeated 1-10 times, preferably 2-5 times.
25. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 24~~, wherein in said step c), said pulp and said permeate are mixed in a ratio ranging between 1:0,5 e 1:50, such as to obtain the hypo-allergenic fruit and/or vegetable derivate.
26. (Original) The process according to claim 25 wherein said pulp and said permeate are mixed in a ratio ranging between 1:1 and 1:10.
27. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 26~~ wherein in step c), said fruit and/or vegetable derivative contains a solid percentage ranging between 4,5 and 45%, preferably between 5 and 36%.
28. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 27~~, wherein said derivative is homogenized, packaged and sterilized.

29. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 28~~, wherein said derivative is homogenized, packaged and frozen.

30. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 29~~, wherein said fruits and/or vegetables are selected from: tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*), peach (*Prunus persica*), apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*), cherry (*Prunus avium* and *Prunus cerasus*), apple (*Malus communis*), pear (*Pyrus communis*), carrot (*Daucus carota*), celery (*Apium graveolens*), celeriac (*Apium graveolens rapaceum*).

31. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 30~~, wherein said fruits and/or vegetables are fresh tomatoes.

32. (Currently amended) A product obtainable by means of the process according to ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 31~~, which is a hypo- allergenic fruit and/or vegetable derivative.

33. (Original) The product according to claim 32, which is hypo- allergenic fruit and/or vegetable juice, nectar, jam, puree, concentrate.

34. (Currently amended) The product according to claim 32 ~~or 33~~, which is hypo- allergenic juice, nectar, jam, puree, concentrate of tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*), peach (*Prunus persica*), apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*), cherry (*Prunus avium* and *Prunus cerasus*), apple (*Malus communis*), pear (*Pyrus communis*), carrot (*Daucus carota*), celery (*Apium graveolens*), celeriac (*Apium graveolens rapaceum*).

35. (Currently amended) The product according to ~~any~~ claim 32 ~~to 34~~ which is hypo-allergenic juice, puree, concentrate of tomato.